

Message Text

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13

ORIGIN SS-30

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DRAFTED BY DOD/ISA:COL.BROWDER:BK

APPROVED BY EA-MSTEARNES

DOD/ISA:MR.DOOLIN (DRAFT)

NSC:COL. KENNEDY (DRAFT)

EA/VN:RHWENZEL

EA/RA:MR. FINCH (DRAFT)

H:SANDERSON

S/S- MR. LUERS

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R 132251Z FEB 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

DAO SAIGON

INFO JCS

CSA

CNO

CSAF

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

NSC

S E C R E T STATE 029839

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS VS

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL CEILING ON MASF FOR FY 1974 (U)

JOINT STATE-DEFENSE MESSAGE

REF: A. SAIGON 21418, 260615Z DEC 73

B. SECDEF 252238Z JAN 74

C. SAIGON 20110 290504Z NOV 73

D. DAO SAIGON 290915Z NOV 73

E. DAO SAIGON 270808 JAN 74

1. THE OVERALL DEFENSE SUPPLEMENTAL WAS SUBMITTED TO
SECRET

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CONGRESS ON 4 FEBRUARY 1974. IT CONTAINED AN ADMINISTRATION REQUEST TO RAISE THE MASF OBLIGATIONAL CEILING FOR VIET-NAM AND LAOS TO L 1.6 BILLION DOLLARS.

2. WHILE WE FULLY APPRECIATE THE MISSION'S POSITION (REF A) THAT ANYTHING LESS THAN A MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM OF 1.6 BILLION FOR FY 1974 WILL DANGEROUSLY JEOPARDIZE THE MILITARY SURVIVAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM, WE ARE CONSTRAINED BY THE OVERALL CONGRESSIONAL OBLIGATIONAL CEILING ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR FY 1974 OF 1.126 BILLION DOLLARS FOR BOTH LAOS AND SOUTH VIET-NAM.

3. THE LEGISLATIVE CEILING OF 1.126 BILLION DOLLARS FOR MASF FOR SOUTH VIET-NAM AND LAOS IS THE LEGAL BINDING LIMIT AND MUST BE ADHERED TO. THE FACT THAT WE ARE SEEKING A

NEW CEILING OF 1.6 BILLION DOLLARS AS PART OF THE OVERALL DEFENSE SUPPLEMENTAL REQUEST, CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO LESSEN EFFORTS TO LIVE WITHIN THE CURRENT CEILING. THE MISSION MUST PLAN FY 1974 MASF AT THE CURRENT CONGRESSIONAL CEILING (REF B) AND ALSO GIVE CONSIDERATION TO PRIORITY REQUIREMENTS ABOVE THE CONGRESSIONAL CEILING.

4. WHILE WE ARE MAKING A MAXIMUM EFFORT TO HAVE THE CEILING RAISED, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE AT THIS TIME TO ESTIMATE OUR CHANCES OF SUCCESS. UNTIL WE HAVE CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL FOR A HIGHER LIMIT, REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL SUPPORT SUCH AS THOSE IN REF C AND D WILL HAVE TO BE AT THE EXPENSE OF EXISTING PROGRAMS WITHIN THE CURRENT CONGRESSIONAL CEILING.

5. REPROGRAMMING WITHIN THE CEILING WILL BE NECESSARY EVEN IF THERE WERE NO REQUESTS FOR UNPROGRAMMED ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE, SINCE WE CURRENTLY ESTIMATE FUNDS REMAINING IN THE ARMY MASF OMA ACCOUNT WILL BE FAR BELOW THOSE NEEDED TO SUPPORT ESSENTIAL O AND M ACTIVITIES. WE AGREE WITH REF E THAT POL MUST BE FUNDED AND THIS CURRENTLY REPRESENTS A CLAIM OF MORE THAN 30 MILLION DOLLARS ON LIMITED FUNDS. DOD IS WORKING ON THE RAMIFICATIONS OF REPROGRAMMING ACTIONS TO COVER ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL OMA AND MPA REQUIREMENTS. THIS ACTION WILL PROBABLY HAVE TO BE TAKEN UNDER SECTION 735 OF PL 93-238 AND REQUIRES APPROVAL OF
SECRET

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THE RELEVANT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES. THIS REPROGRAMMING AND ANY OTHER WILL OF COURSE HAVE TO BE WITHIN THE OVERALL CONGRESSIONAL OBLIGATION CEILING. KISSINGER

SECRET

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